

## Topics:

- Supplemental Environmental Projects for OU4 Dispute Resolution
- Natural Resource Restoration Plan
- Aesthetic Barrier Project
- Wetland Mitigation
- Sitewide Excavation Plan

## Attendees:

CAB members:	Jane Harper
	Doug Sarno
	Bob Tabor
	Gene Willeke
DOE:	Johnny Reising
Fluor Daniel Fernald:	Kathi Nickel
	Tisha Patton
	Eric Woods
FRESH members:	Carol Schroer
	Edwa Yocum

## Results:

- Future presentation on the Sitewide Excavation Plan and final grading of the site

## Meeting Summary:

Eric Woods began the meeting with a discussion of the Habitat Area Supplemental Environmental Project. Construction on the Habitat Area should begin in late September or early October. The land on which the Habitat Area is being constructed is currently being certified. Soil samples are being taken and once they are analyzed a certification report will be written. The Habitat Area will be designed so that overlooks provide views over terraced habitat areas. Ecological research projects will be conducted on the lower terraces. These research projects will examine different habitat densities as a means of designing natural resource management activities for the final remediation of the site. A prairie grassland and an American Chestnut plot are part of these research projects. Miami University has a strain of American Chestnut that they hope is resistant to the blight which has killed most of the native American Chestnut population. USEPA and OEPA comments have been received and the project should begin next spring. Doug Sarno asked who would be responsible for maintaining these research areas and habitats in the future. DOE hopes that once the ecosystems are established they will be self-sustaining. DOE will, however, maintain the areas for now. Other research projects are being conducted to help DOE decide how to revegetate disturbed areas of the site. For example, in the eastern portion of the site, much of the topsoil has been removed. This area will be used for an Area I Phase I revegetative plot. Another research project will look at how to control invasive species such as honeysuckle and wild grape.

DOE will also try to obtain a conservation easement. A conservation easement means that DOE enters into an agreement with a landowner near the site who owns land of ecological significance. This agreement will prevent the land from being developed. DOE can either buy the land outright or pay the owner a portion of the property value to keep the land undisturbed. DOE is looking at a 30 acre wooded wetland close to the site that has a unique assemblage of salamanders. This area is the only habitat for the marbled salamander in a 90 mile radius. DOE has approached the landowner and he has shown interest. The land is not easily developable anyway.



DOE has not received the Department of the Interior's comments to the Natural Resource Restoration Plan (NRRP). The Natural Resource Trustees will be meeting to discuss all the comments that have been received. DOE wants to settle any conflicts with the Natural Resource Trustees so that restoration activities can proceed. A final plan will be available to stakeholder for comments in May or June. DOE will make a formal settlement with the state of Ohio to resolve the lawsuit for the unlawful destruction of natural resources.

The Aesthetic Barrier Project is being conducted in direct response to a recommendation from the Natural Resources Committee of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board. The committee had recommended that areas undergoing extensive remediation activity be hidden from public view by the use of natural foliage. The barrier will be constructed in the southern portion of the site, east of the Access Road, because excavation will occur in this area for a number of years. The barrier will consist of four rows of trees with pines planted toward the back and flowering deciduous trees planted in the front. Construction on the project should start this fall.

The Wetland Mitigation Project is also underway. The Clean Water Act. Destroyed wetlands requires that destroyed wetlands be replaced. In the northwest area of the site, the plan for wetland replacement is underway and construction should begin next year.

Doug asked for a presentation of the Sitewide Excavation Plan (SEP) that would show the final grade of the site. Kathi Nickel said that the presentation would have to be very general at this point since a lot of information about final grading had not yet been determined.

Tisha provided the committee with written summaries on the OSDF and Safe Shutdown, as well as the Integrated Environmental Monitoring Plan for the fourth quarter.

